

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07083 271918Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----271924Z 016628 /41

R 271241Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4377

S E C R E T CAIRO 7083

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR OMISSION IN PARA THREE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, US, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN QUERY RE US ARMS FOR AFRICA

REF: CAIRO 6437

1. AFTER FAHMY HAD GIVEN ME THE TEXT OF SOVIET MESSAGE AND SADAT'S ORAL MESSAGE (SEPTELS), HE SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO INQUIRE ABOUT A US RESPONSE TO THE EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR ARMS FOR AFRICA. IF GOE IS TO CHALLENGE THE SOVIET THREAT TO AFRICA, AS SADAT HAD DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON, IT NEEDS MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THIS PURPOSE. WHILE IN WASHINGTON, SADAT'S TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS HAD ENCOURAGED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THE USG WOULD ASSIST EGYPT WITH ARMS FOR THIS PURPOSE. HENCE, THE MILITARY LIST WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED. THE PRESIDENT WAS ANXIOUS TO HAVE A REPLY ASAP. (FAHMY CLAIMED SADAT IS TELEPHONING HIM EVERY DAY ASKING HIM IF THERE HAS BEEN A REPLY.)

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2. SADAT HAD ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF THERE IS A CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM, IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER COULD ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY SEND ARMS VALUED AT LESS THAN \$24 MILLION. HE HOPED THAT, IF NECESSARY, PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD ADOPT SUCH A PROCEDURE.

3. I TOLD FAHMY THAT I HAD NO REPLY AS YET TO THE EGYPTIAN REQUEST. IT IS NOT AS SIMPLE A MATTER AS OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS SEEM TO BELIEVE, AND THE REQUEST REQUIRES CAREFUL STUDY. MOREOVER, AS FAHMY WAS AWARE, THE ADMINISTRATION IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING A NEW ARMS POLICY. I COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT THE RESPONSE MIGHT BE, BUT EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE TYPE OF PROCEDURE SUGGESTED BY SADAT TO AVOID SUBMITTING SUCH A MATTER TO THE CONGRESS IS HARDLY PRACTICAL. IT WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS NOT ONLY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, BUT WOULD ALSO HURT THE POSITIVE IMAGE THAT SADAT HAS SO EFFECTIVELY ESTABLISHED WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS. I ASKED FAHMY TO TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT I WOULD LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS A RESPONSE IS RECEIVED.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO07083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850052-2133, P840084-1809, N770004-0065
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770416/aaaaamxm.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 155dc19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 CAIRO 6437, 77 CAIRO 7083
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2684037
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN QUERY RE US ARMS FOR AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, EG, XA, UR, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/155dc19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009